

I want to start out with a big quotation (Swedenborg) and a big statement (mine)

Swedenborg...

The final end and purpose of creation is a heaven of angels from the human race. DP 27

Julian

At this moment in time, I believe that our final redemption rests with us. I may rethink this.

Redemption is the idea that we can eventually find release from all suffering of all kinds.

The thought came to me – our body dies, therefore we lose physical limitations...

So, parallel to that, does our troubled spirit 'die' and therefore we attain full liberation?
(that would be rather nice...)

Redemption – as a word – originally comes from a Jewish practice

The buying back of something which once belonged to the purchaser but which for some reason has come to belong to another.

As in the Coles fuel voucher – quote it.

This idea came to be applied (narrowly) to Christ's 'sacrifice' to 'buy back' mankind from its sinfulness and restore mankind back to God, achieved by his death on the cross.

(I don't particularly want to go too much into that outlook...)

More generally, redemption is the idea that every person can be and will be redeemed or saved at some point whenever. So we can say ultimate redemption.

This raises big questions –

Is hell something eternal in itself?

Is hell in some particular person possibly a never-ending situation?

Are only Christians saved?

Who and what saves us (and when)?

Taking ultimate redemption as true, is this desirable and is it in line with the Divine will?

Would you, as you now are, greatly appreciate an end to every tension and struggle?

Christianity tends to merge redemption and salvation

By contrast, Swedenborg keeps a clear distinction between the two.

Christianity says that believing in Jesus death for our sins on the cross redeems and saves us.

Swedenborg says that God coming into the world and doing what he did has fully redeemed the whole human race – and guaranteed its/our spiritual freedom and that individual salvation happens when a person makes conscious choices to 'repent' and do what is good and true, possible because we have been redeemed to be able to do so.

OK. Let's go back for a bit to Swedenborg's big statement that

'the final end and purpose of creation is a heaven of angels from the human race' DP 27

Let's draw some deductions from that –

The whole Divine aim and work must always and unfailingly be to bring all people to heaven (whatever that is)

While we can conceive of that, we can never fully understand the full workings out of it

God may possibly be able to override our sufferings and bring us into full liberation

Or, God may not be able to do that because of the nature of creation (the 'gap')

Or, God may be able to do that but only to the extent that we do things to enable him to

Restate the purpose of creation is a heaven of angels from the human race

My new model

Old model first –

(well, not the very old model)

Heaven and Hell, being states of mind, fully become our eternal state once and for all (the 'nice' idea that hell is actually heaven for those who are drawn that way)

Heaven and Hell progressively become our eternal state expansively

Sw's statement that with those in good, temptations are taken away and that with those in evil, conscience is taken away – since eternity would be intolerable otherwise

Heaven and Hell continue to be states we experience at different times

And 'heaven' as such is the sum total of all those who are currently experiencing heaven

Hell as such is the sum total of all those who are currently experiencing hell

So, the whole is an organic and ever-changing reality.

The 'binary' theory of eternity

Finally, consider Swedenborg's frequent statement that our state can't be changed after death – and peoples' great difficulty with that 'cut-off'

Refer to passages in the NJHD

The overall question of the eternity of the hells...